

JANUARY 20, 1828.

Read twice, and committed to a Committee of the whole House
on Monday next.

A BILL

Further to regulate the Post Office Department.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 all post roads on which the nett proceeds of the postages do
4 not amount to one-third part of the expense of conveying the
5 mail thereon, shall be, and the same are hereby, discontinu-
6 ed, except it be a road on which the mail is usually conveyed
7 from the seat of the General Government of the United
8 States to the seat of government in a state or territory; or
9 from the seat of government in some state or territory, to
10 the seat of government in some other state or territory; or
11 from the seat of government in a state or territory, to the
12 seat of justice in some county therein; or from the seat of
13 justice in one county to that of another.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That, hereafter, in ad-*
2 vertising for the letting of contracts for the conveyance of
3 the mails, the amount agreed to be paid for carrying the mail
4 upon each rout so advertised, under the then existing con-
5 tract, shall be stated, and the Postmaster General shall be

6 authorized, in such advertisement, to name some person resi-
 7 dent in the state or territory, convenient to where the mails
 8 are to be carried, who shall receive the proposals for the
 9 conveyance of the same; and who shall, under the instruc-
 10 tions of the Postmaster General, determine upon the person
 11 or persons who may be entitled to the contract for each route
 12 or routes, and take bond and security of such undertaker, for
 13 the performance of his duties, who shall transmit the same to
 14 the Postmaster General, together with all the proposals made
 15 for the conveyance on each route; and if the contract thus
 16 made, be approved by the Postmaster General, it shall have
 17 the like force and effect as though it had been made and en-
 18 tered into under the existing laws, at the General Post Office.

1 **SEC. 3.** *And be it further enacted,* That no Postmaster
 2 shall be allowed to frank, or receive free of postage, any letter
 3 or package, nor more than one daily newspaper, or newspa-
 4 pers equivalent thereto, except it be letters written by or to
 5 him on business of his own, or upon the business of his office;
 6 nor if it exceed half an ounce in weight, excepting also letters
 7 and packages to and from the General Post Office, and to
 8 and from other Post Offices, upon the business, or relating to
 9 the concerns, of the Post Office Department.

1 **SEC. 4.** *And be it further enacted,* That no Postmaster
 2 shall be a contractor, or concerned in a contract for carrying
 3 the mail, nor shall any person who may be a contractor, or

4 interested in a contract for the conveyance of the mail, be
 5 appointed a Postmaster, unless in those cases where the mail
 6 shall be carried by water: *Provided*, That nothing in this
 7 section shall apply to Clark's Ferry, in Pennsylvania: *And*
 8 *provided, further*, That no contract heretofore made, shall be
 9 annulled or impaired, in consequence of the contractor being
 10 a Postmaster, or in consequence of a Postmaster being con-
 11 cerned in such contract.

1 *SEC. 5. And be it further enacted*, That if any Postmas-
 2 ter shall fail, for the space of ninety days, to render his ac-
 3 counts at the time, and in the manner, now required by law,
 4 or shall fail to pay over, when required, by draft or order
 5 from the Postmaster General, the moneys due from him on
 6 his said accounts, it shall be the duty of the Postmaster Ge-
 7 neral, forthwith, to remove such defaulter from office.

1 *SEC. 6. And be it further enacted*, That, after the thirtieth
 2 day of June next, no allowance shall be made to any Post-
 3 master for house rent, clerk hire, or other contingencies for
 4 his office, notwithstanding the emoluments of such Postmas-
 5 ter shall exceed two thousand dollars, unless the same shall
 6 be previously determined on, and allowed, by the Postmaster
 7 General; and allowances so made, the Postmaster General
 8 shall cause to be entered in a book, to be kept in his office
 9 for that purpose, specifying the particular items, and the
 10 amount of each; a copy of which he shall transmit to such

11 Postmaster, and according to which, the accounts of such
 12 Postmaster, in that respect, shall be settled and adjusted:
 13 nor shall any such allowance be made, unless it shall be ne-
 14 cessary to the public service.

1 SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted, That, from and after*
 2 *the thirtieth day of June next, the commissions to be allowed*
 3 *to the several Postmasters, on postages received by them, on*
 4 *letters and packets, in any one quarter, shall be as follows: on*
 5 *any sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, thirty per cent.;*
 6 *on any sum not exceeding two thousand three hundred dol-*
 7 *lars, over and above the first hundred dollars, twenty per cent.;*
 8 *and on any sum above the first two thousand three hundred*
 9 *dollars, eight per cent.: Provided, That nothing herein con-*
 10 *tained shall be construed to affect the restriction imposed by*
 11 *the fortieth section of the act, entitled "An act regulating the*
 12 *Post Office Department," approved the thirtieth April, one*
 13 *thousand eight hundred and ten: And, provided, also, That*
 14 *nothing herein contained, shall be construed to extend to al-*
 15 *lowances now made by law, on the postage on newspapers and*
 16 *pamphlets, and for opening and despatching mails in the night*
 17 *time.*

1 SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted, That, from and after*
 2 *the thirtieth day of June next, the following postages shall*
 3 *be charged on letters conveyed above seven hundred miles,*
 4 *viz: every single letter, thirty-one and a quarter cents; for*

5 every double letter, sixty-two and an half cents; for every tri-
 6 ple letter, ninety cents; for every quadruple letter, one hun-
 7 dred and twenty cents; and for every letter or package
 8 weighing one ounce, avoirdupois weight, thirty-one and a
 9 quarter cents for the first two ounces, and twenty-five cents
 10 for each other ounce. And, after the said thirtieth June next,
 11 the postages to be charged on magazines and pamphlets shall
 12 be as follows: For any distance not exceeding fifty miles, one
 13 and a half cents per sheet; for any distance over fifty miles,
 14 and not exceeding one hundred and fifty miles, two cents per
 15 sheet; for any distance over one hundred and fifty miles, and
 16 not exceeding three hundred miles, two and a half cents per
 17 sheet; for any distance over three hundred miles, and not ex-
 18 ceeding five hundred miles, three cents; and for any distance
 19 exceeding five hundred miles, three and a half cents per sheet.

1 SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That no printer of a
 2 newspaper shall be entitled to receive, free of postage, more
 3 than fifty newspapers, and not more than ten of them from
 4 any one state; and each printer, on or before the thirtieth
 5 day of June next, shall file with the Postmaster, where his
 6 papers are received, a list, containing the names and number
 7 of newspapers that he is desirous to receive free of postage,
 8 not exceeding the said number of fifty; and all other newspa-
 9 pers which he shall receive, other than those contained in said
 10 list, he shall pay postage on, after the same rates, and in the

14 same manner that others do; and the said printers of news-
 12 papers may, at the end of any quarter, alter or amend the
 13 list so given in and filed, or file a new one.

1 SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted,* That so much of the
 2 twenty-seventh section of the act, entitled "An act regulating
 3 the Post Office Establishment," passed the thirtieth of April,
 4 one thousand eight hundred and twenty, as vests in the Post-
 5 master General power to authorize any person, with whom
 6 a contract may be made for the conveyance of the mail, to
 7 carry newspapers, magazines, and pamphlets, other than those
 8 conveyed in the mail, be so construed as to place the print-
 9 ers of newspapers, resident in the same town or city, on an
 10 equality.

1 SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster
 2 General, whenever he shall deem it expedient and useful,
 3 shall have power and authority to provide for, and cause the
 4 mail upon any route to be separated and transported, the let-
 5 ters in one portmanteau or trunk, and the newspapers, pam-
 6 phlets, and magazines, in another.

1 SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted,* That the offices of
 2 all Postmasters who have been in commission for seven years
 3 or more, shall expire on the thirtieth day of June next; that
 4 those who have been in commission for five years, and less
 5 than seven, their office shall end on the thirtieth day of Octo-
 6 ber next; and those who have been in office for three years,

7 and less than five, their commissions shall expire on the
 8 thirtieth day of December next; and all Postmasters who
 9 have been commissioned within three years, their commis-
 10 sions shall expire at the end of four years from the date of
 11 their commissions, respectively; and all Postmasters hereaf-
 12 ter to be appointed, shall be commissioned for four years, and
 13 no longer; nothing herein contained shall prevent the same
 14 person from being re-appointed, as often as the Postmaster
 15 General may deem it advisable and expedient to do so, pro-
 16 vided he is not in arrear to the Government.

1 **SEC. 13.** *And be it further enacted,* That so much of any
 2 and of every law, as authorizes letters or packets to be car-
 3 ried in the mail free of postage, to or from any person or per-
 4 sons, other than the President of the United States; the Vice-
 5 President; the members of the Senate; the members and de-
 6 legates of the House of Representatives of the United States;
 7 the Secretaries of State, of the Treasury, of War, and of the
 8 Navy; the Postmaster General; the Assistants Postmaster
 9 General; Postmasters; and, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson,
 10 and James Madison, late Presidents of the United States, shall
 11 be, and the same is hereby, repealed; and so much of the
 12 twenty-fifth section of the act of the thirtieth April, one thou-
 13 sand eight hundred and ten, entitled "An act regulating the
 14 Post Office Establishment," as authorizes the Secretary of

15 State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of War,
16 the Secretary of the Navy, and the Postmaster General, to
17 frank letters or packets on official business, prepared in any
18 other than their own Departments, respectively, shall be, and
19 the same is, also, hereby, repealed.